

Dear Family Member,

We are kicking off our ninth unit of study out of ten in the Benchmark Advance program. As with the previous units, I am providing suggested activities you and your child can do together at home to build on the work we're doing in class.

In this unit, "Resources and Their Impact," we will read and compare selections about natural resources to understand how access to resources influences people's lives. We will be reading a variety of genres, including informational texts, poetry, tall tales, and fiction.

This unit will promote some interesting discussion about resources and how they affect your own lives.

As always, should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child's progress, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Resources and Their Impact

In this unit, we read about resources such as human workers, food resources, and oil. With each selection, we will think in depth about the question “How does access to resources influence people’s lives?” Here are some activities you can do at home to continue the conversation we started at school about the impact of natural resources.

Topic Connection

Garden Resources

As students learn about natural resources in school, you can work with your child at home to locate where natural resources are located in your own community. Ask your child to plan a community vegetable garden and list the foods that could be grown there. Work with your child to think about how the garden will get the water resources it needs to grow, and how it will be used in the community and influence people’s lives. You may choose to carry through with the garden plans, or you may want to talk about how important working with resources is in helping people to meet their needs.

Vocabulary Connection

Vocabulary Charades

In school, your child is learning new words related to the impact of natural resources. To help your child focus on these words fully, play a game of charades and act out as many of these words as possible: **industries, poverty, affordable, drought, technologies, abundant, revenue, resistant, withered, and boycott.** Halfway through the list, trade places so that you are each able to act out words and guess words.

Comprehension Connection

Acrostic Poems

In this unit, students learned that resources come in all shapes and sizes, and impact us in many ways. Have your child write an acrostic poem as an ode to natural resources. First, your child will write the word RESOURCES vertically down the left side of the page. Each letter will be the beginning of that line of the poem. The poem should name at least two different resources and explore the impact those resources have on our everyday lives.

Word Study Connections

Focus on Drought

During this unit, your child will be reading passages about the Dust Bowl and the effect that drought had on farms in the American West. Work with your child to research newspaper articles about drought, either in print papers or online. Have your child locate details in the article that give clues to the meaning of the word *drought*. Have them underline those words, phrases, or sentences, and then use those descriptions to summarize what a drought is.